

## Brighter Schools: Sustainability Education Activities

**Name of Activity:** “How Big is 1 Ton?”

**Minimum Group Size:** 5 students, and 1 adult mentor depending on ages of students

**Age Group:** Middle school or older

**Objective:** To display the size of 1 ton of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, and to use the display as an educational exercise about carbon footprints and climate change for your community.

**Description:** Students construct a cube, 27 feet on all sides. The cube can create an educational, art or meeting space for visitors.

**Time:** Construction - 2 hours minimum, plus event time

**Materials Needed:** Varies, see steps below.

### Steps:

- Plan the project:
  - Do you want the box to be an educational display, an art display, a meeting place or all of these?
  - For an educational display, you can use the space to explain the box and to talk about climate change, carbon footprints and ways that we can all conserve and live more sustainably.
  - For an art project, you can create a space within the box (the walls or somewhere inside) that will serve as a canvas or workspace. Find a theme appropriate for your community to focus the art around, like “What (your town) Does To Stop Global Warming” or “How to Be A Healthy, Low-Carbon Society”.
  
- Design and build the box:
  - You can use a variety of materials for your box, including string, wood, or PVC pipes, depending on what you want to do with the finished box.
  - Choose a good location for the box. A few ideas include the playground, a public green space, a park or outdoor meeting space. Be sure to get permission from the appropriate authority to construct your project.
  
- Hold a public event to bring people in to see your project. Promote the event to your community. Consider having a speaker or activities that crowds can participate in throughout the day.

### Wrap-up:

Feel free to contact us, [schools@brighterplanet.com](mailto:schools@brighterplanet.com), with stories or suggestions!

